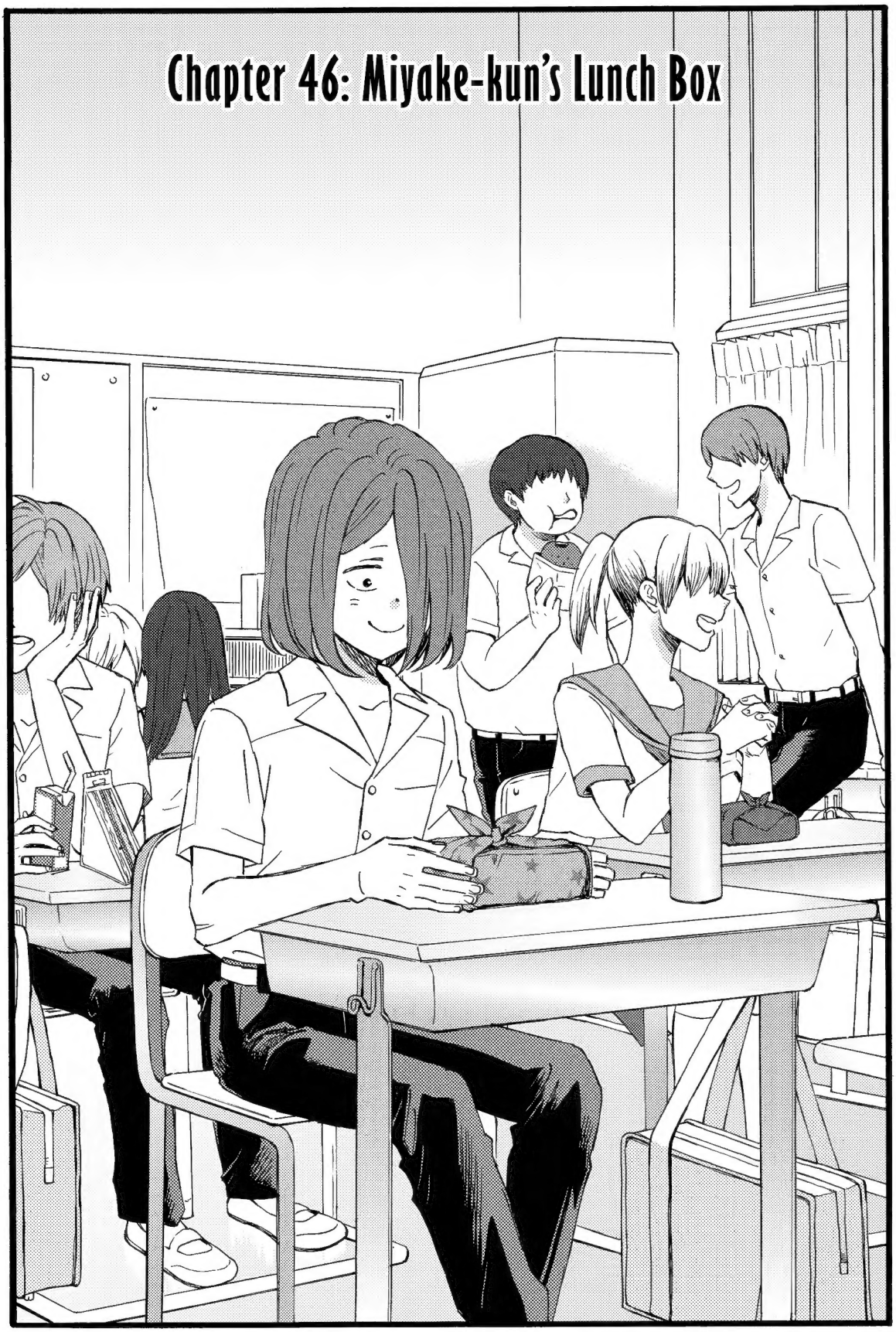
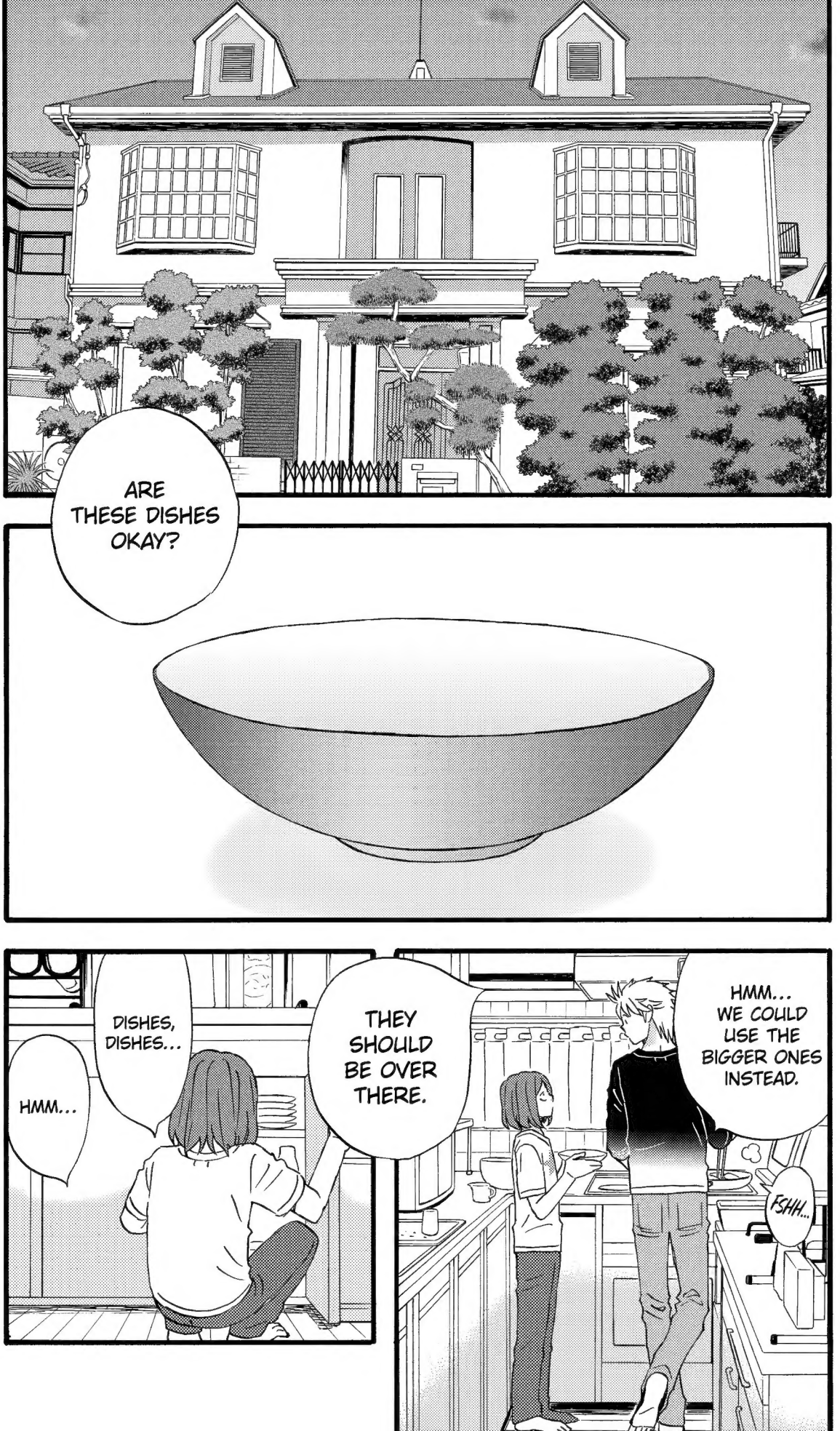
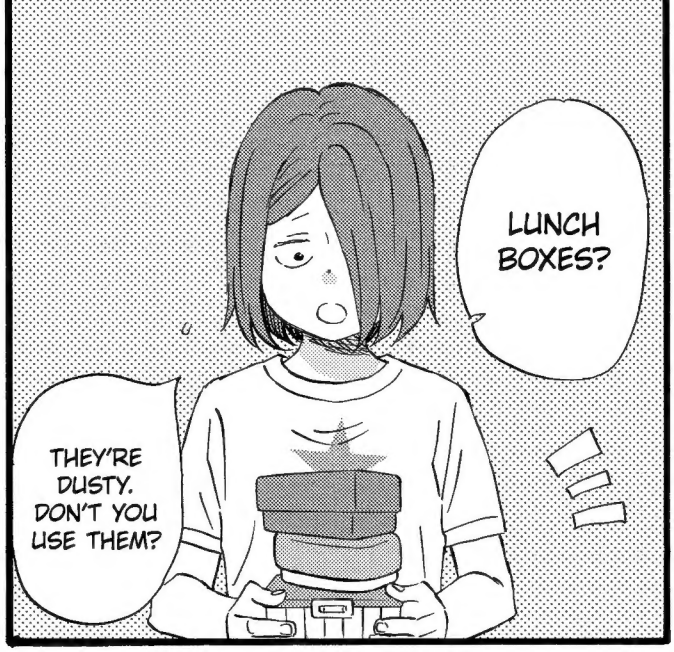
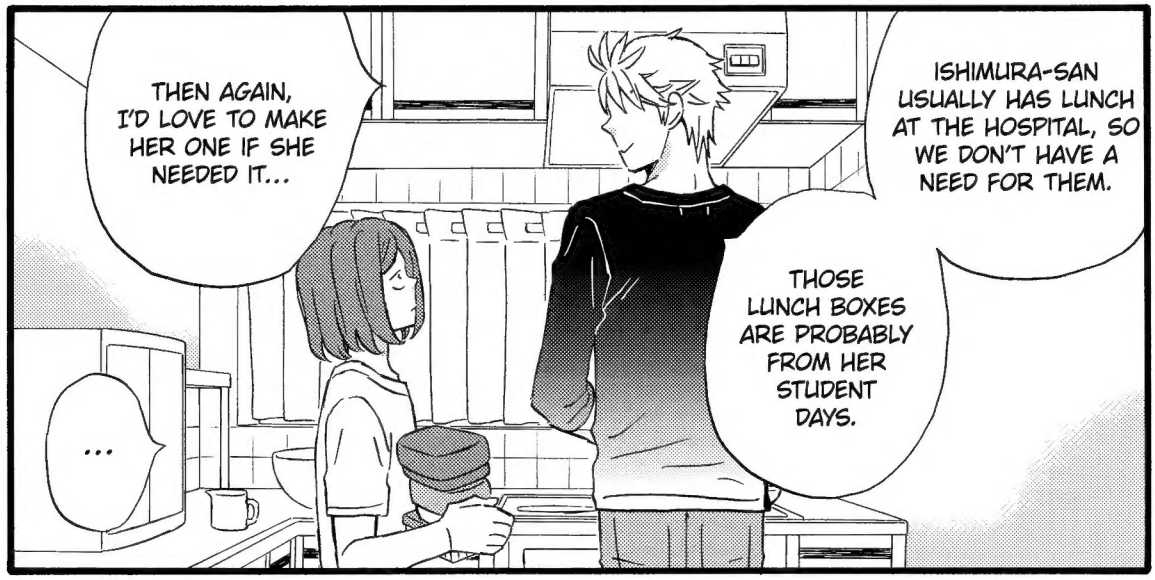
Chapter 46: Miyake-kun's Lunch Box



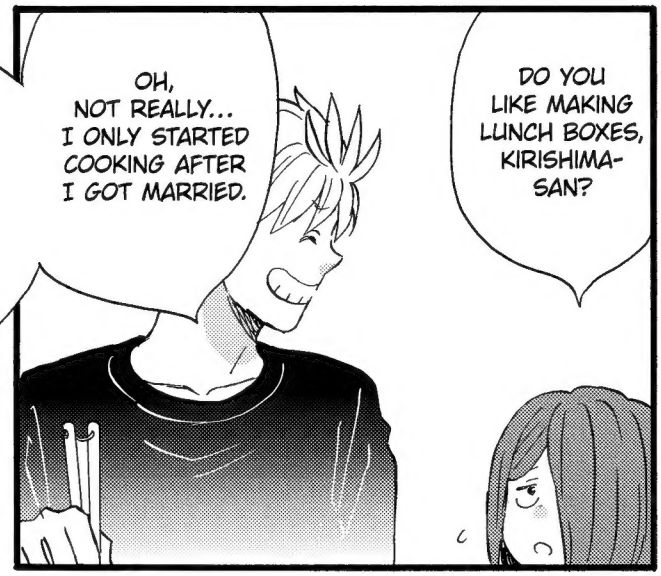

ARE THESE DISHES OKAY?
DISHES, DISHES...
HMM...
THEY SHOULD BE OVER THERE.
HMM... WE COULD USE THE BIGGER ONES INSTEAD.
FSHH...

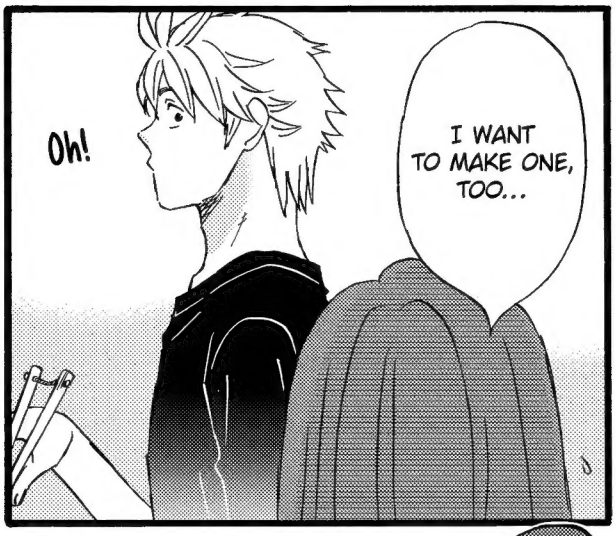

LUNCH BOXES?
THEY'RE DUSTY. DON'T YOU USE THEM?

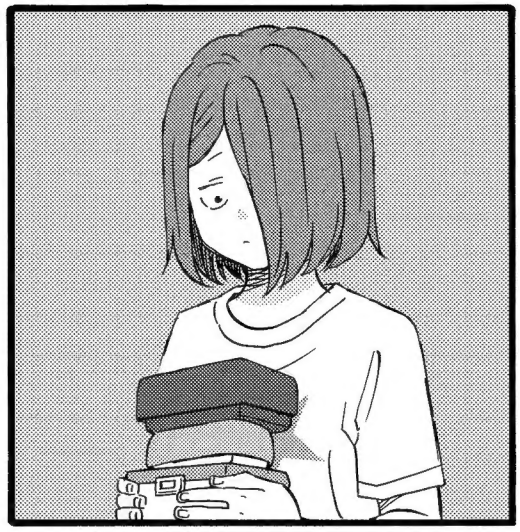
OH. DID YOU FIND THEM?
...HM?

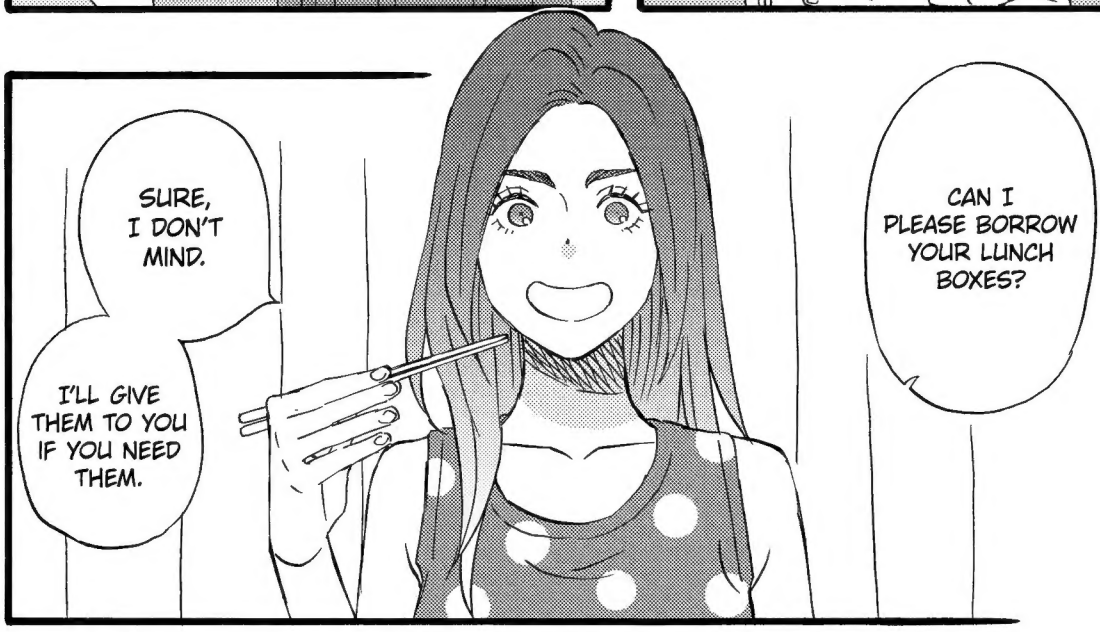

ISHIMURA-SAN USUALLY HAS LUNCH AT THE HOSPITAL, SO WE DON'T HAVE A NEED FOR THEM.
THOSE LUNCH BOXES ARE PROBABLY FROM HER STUDENT DAYS.
THEN AGAIN, I'D LOVE TO MAKE HER ONE IF SHE NEEDED IT...
...

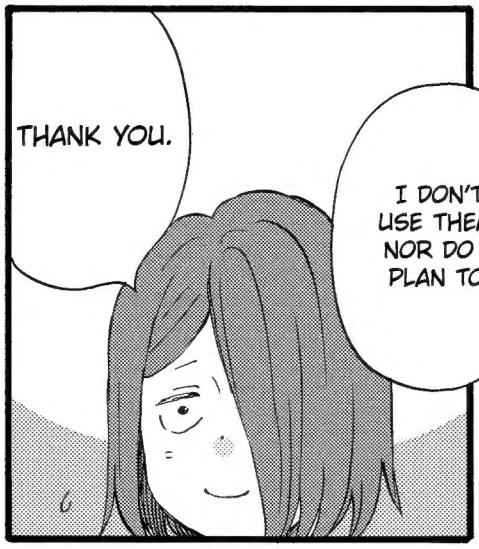
...
I'VE NEVER MADE ONE BEFORE, SO I KINDA WANTED TO TRY IT.

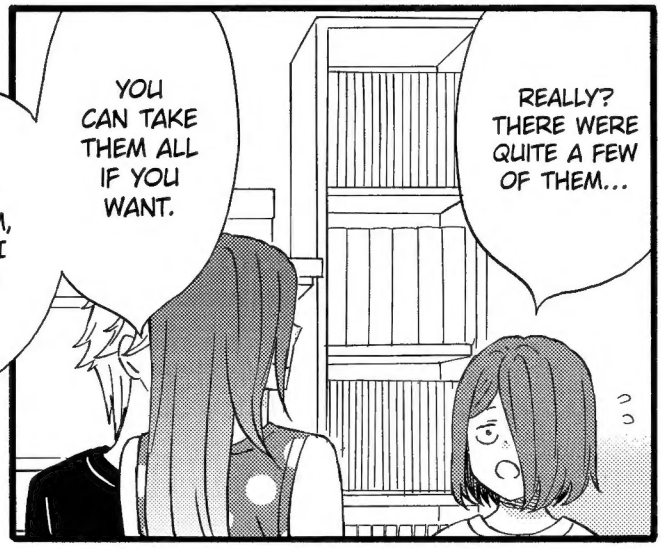

DO YOU LIKE MAKING LUNCH BOXES, KIRISHIMA-SAN?
OH, NOT REALLY... I ONLY STARTED COOKING AFTER I GOT MARRIED.

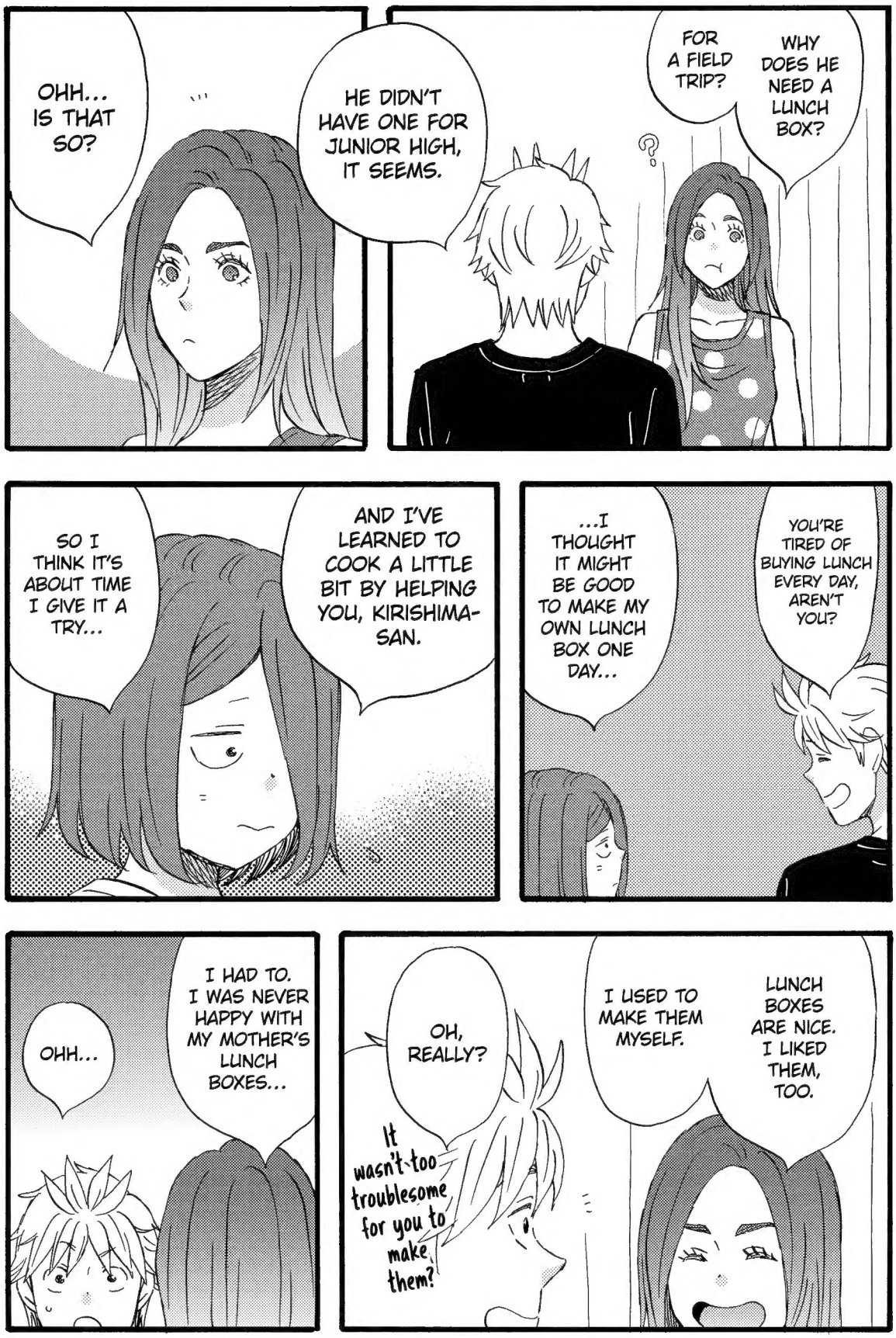

Oh!
I WANT TO MAKE ONE, TOO...

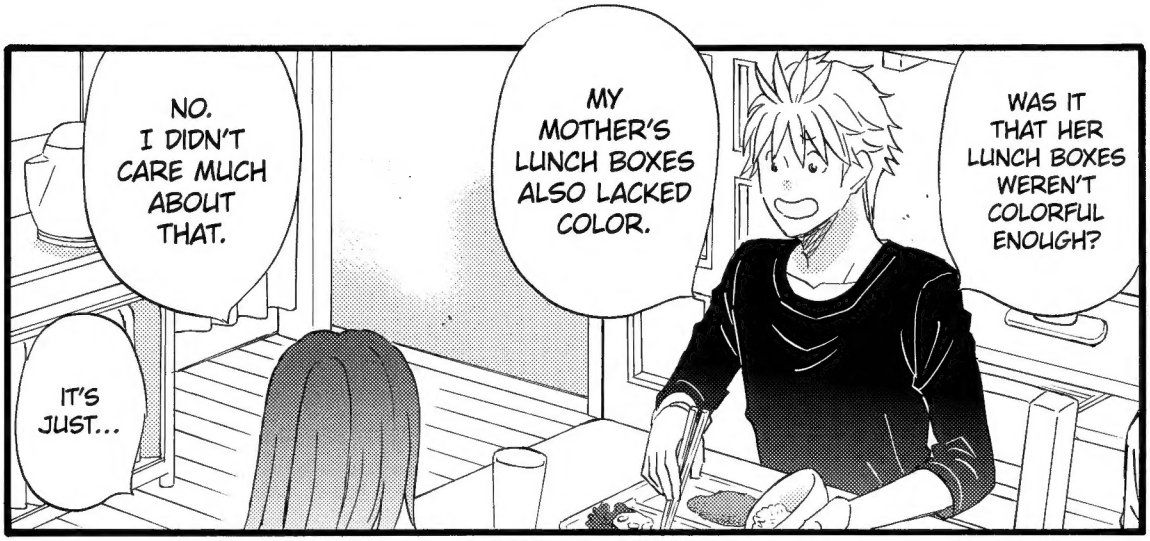


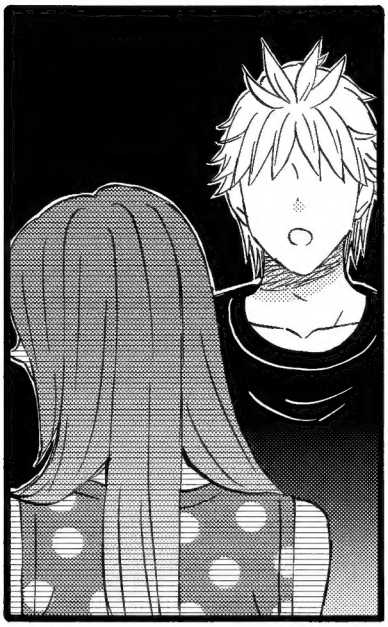

CAN I PLEASE BORROW YOUR LUNCH BOXES?
SURE, I DON'T MIND.
I'LL GIVE THEM TO YOU IF YOU NEED THEM.

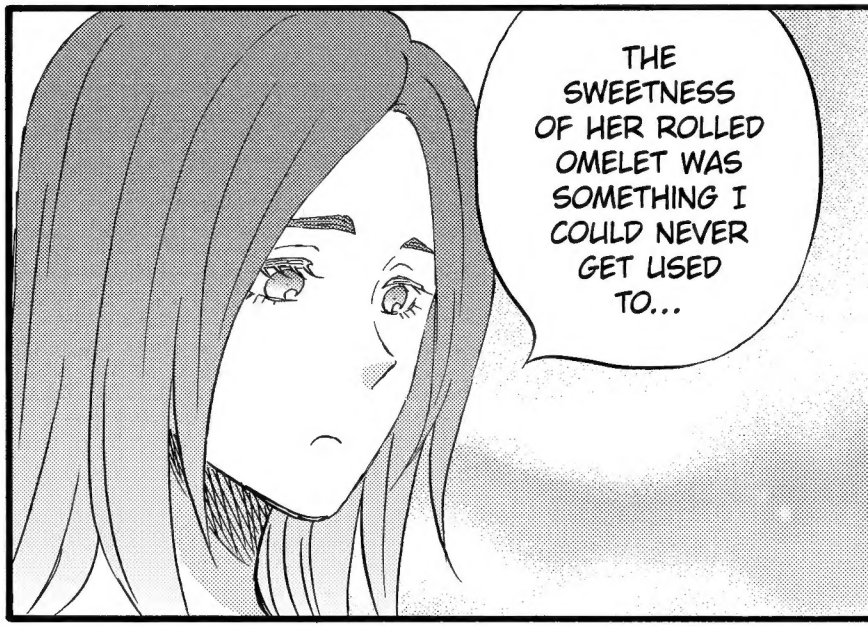

THANK YOU.

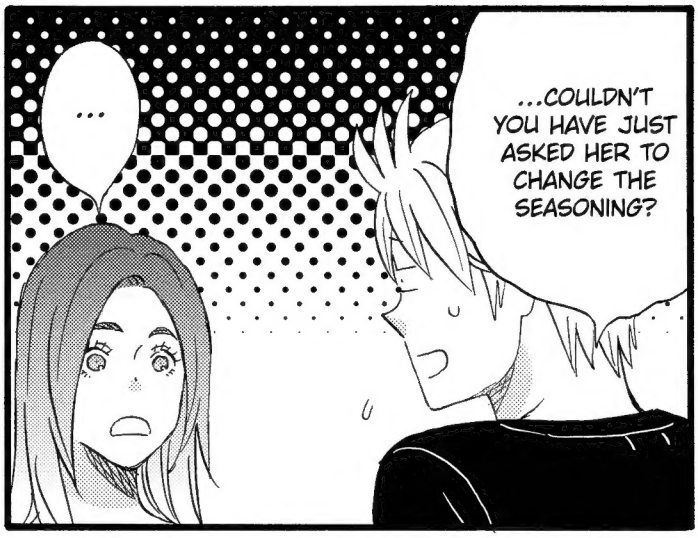

I DON'T USE THEM, NOR DO I PLAN TO.
YOU CAN TAKE THEM ALL IF YOU WANT.
REALLY? THERE WERE QUITE A FEW OF THEM...

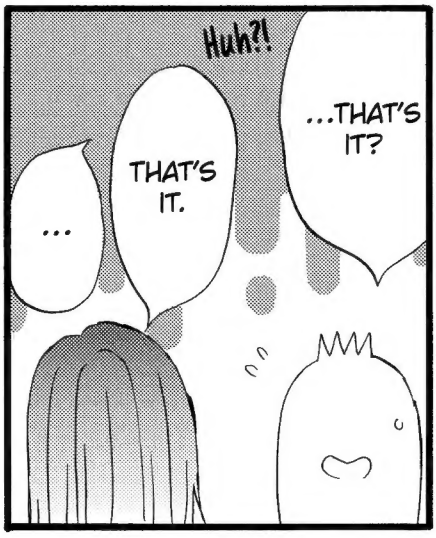

OHH... IS THAT SO?
HE DIDN'T HAVE ONE FOR JUNIOR HIGH, IT SEEMS.
FOR A FIELD TRIP?
WHY DOES HE NEED A LUNCH BOX?
SO I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME I GIVE IT A TRY...
AND I'VE LEARNED TO COOK A LITTLE BIT BY HELPING YOU, KIRISHIMA-SAN.
...I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE GOOD TO MAKE MY OWN LUNCH BOX ONE DAY...
YOU'RE TIRED OF BUYING LUNCH EVERY DAY, AREN'T YOU?
OHH...
I HAD TO. I WAS NEVER HAPPY WITH MY MOTHER'S LUNCH BOXES...
OH, REALLY?
It wasn't too troublesome for you to make them?
I USED TO MAKE THEM MYSELF.
LUNCH BOXES ARE NICE. I LIKED THEM, TOO.


WAS IT THAT HER LUNCH BOXES WEREN'T COLORFUL ENOUGH?
MY MOTHER'S LUNCH BOXES ALSO LACKED COLOR.
NO. I DIDN'T CARE MUCH ABOUT THAT.
IT'S JUST...

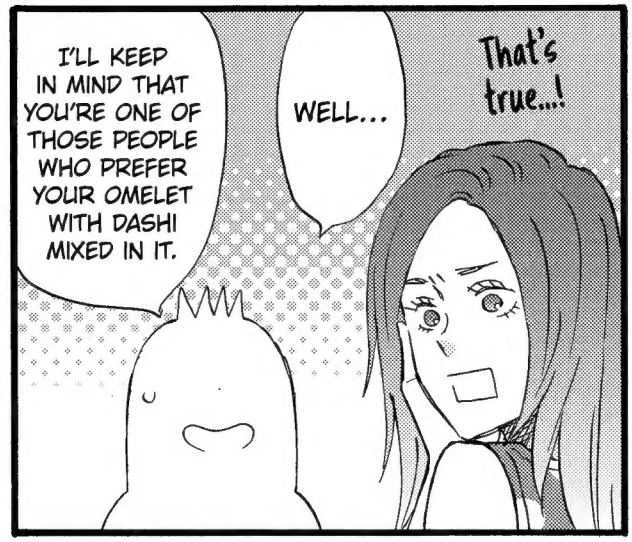


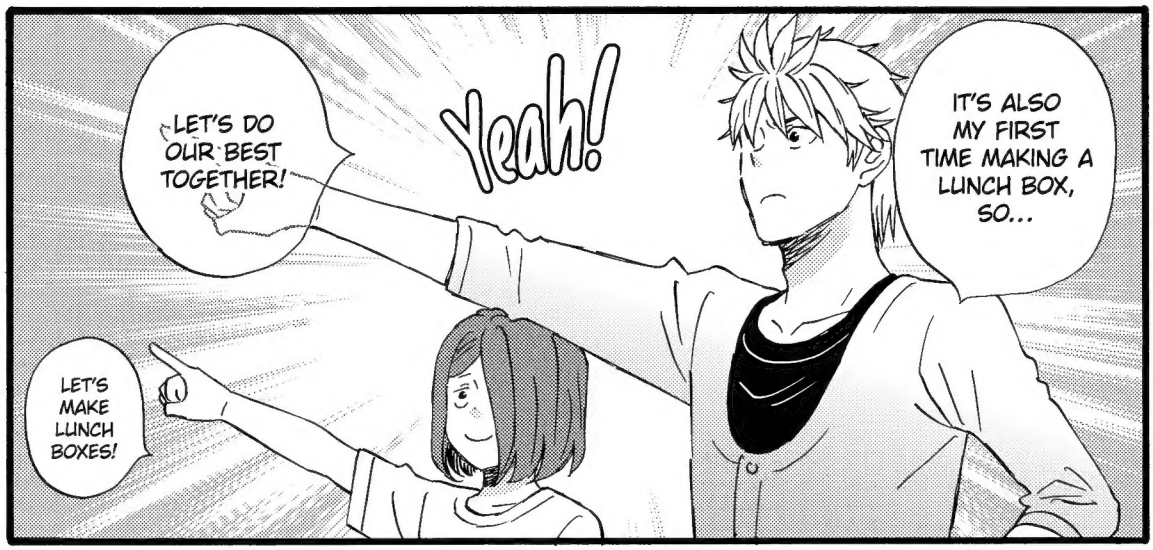

THE SWEETNESS OF HER ROLLED OMELET WAS SOMETHING I COULD NEVER GET USED TO...

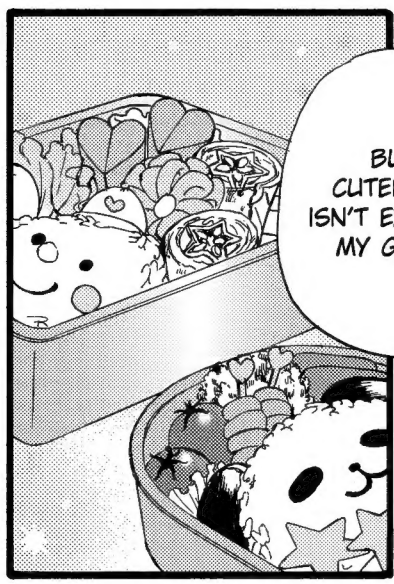

...COULDN'T YOU HAVE JUST ASKED HER TO CHANGE THE SEASONING?
...


Huh?!
...THAT'S IT?
THAT'S IT.
...

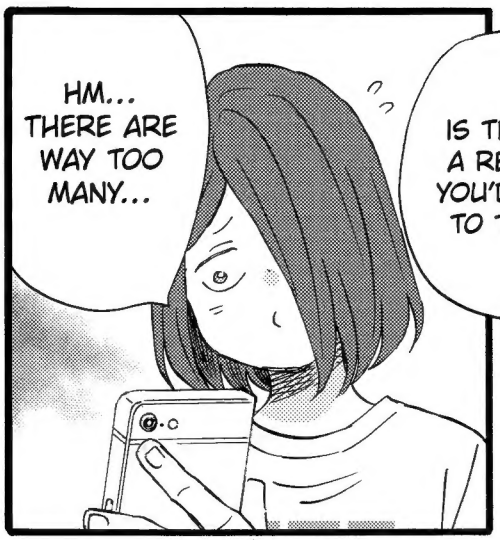
...ALL RIGHT.

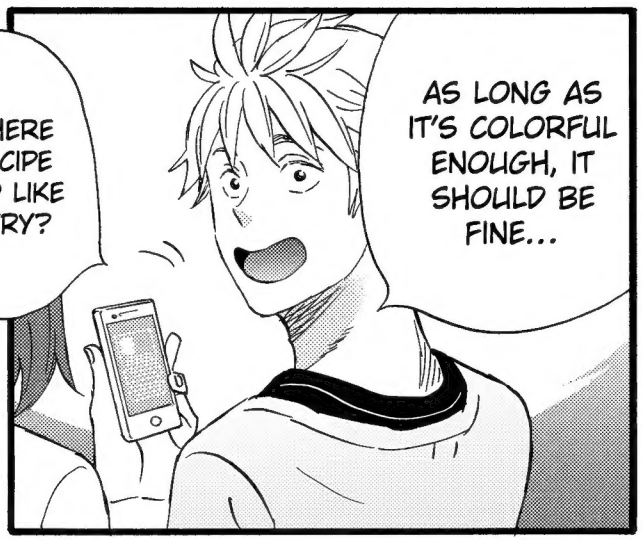

I'LL KEEP IN MIND THAT YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO PREFER YOUR OMELET WITH DASHI MIXED IN IT.
WELL...
That's true...!

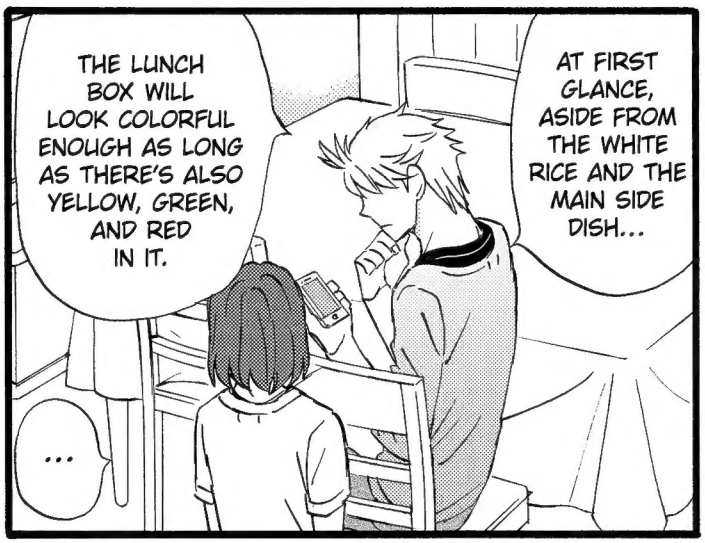

LET'S DO OUR BEST TOGETHER!
Yeah!
IT'S ALSO MY FIRST TIME MAKING A LUNCH BOX, SO...
LET'S MAKE LUNCH BOXES!


BUT CUTENESS ISN'T EXACTLY MY GOAL.

YOU CAN FIND A LOT OF CUTE LUNCH BOX RECIPES ONLINE...

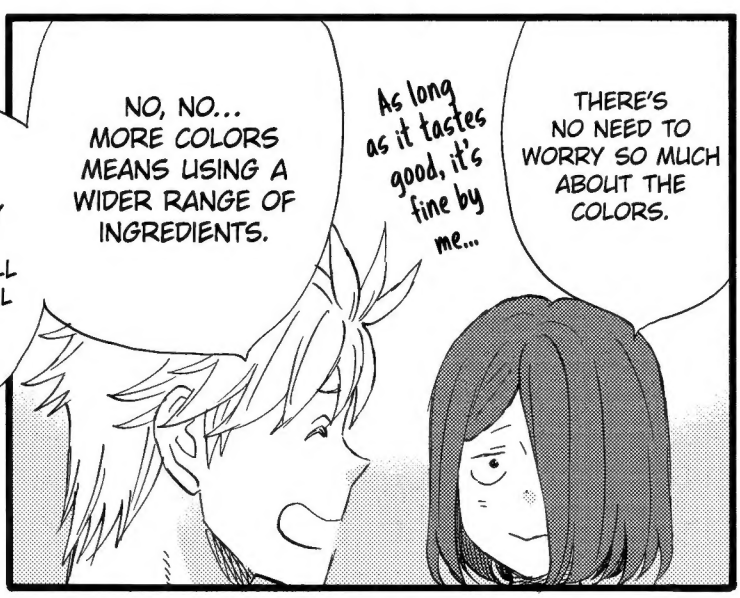

HM... THERE ARE WAY TOO MANY...
IS THERE A RECIPE YOU'D LIKE TO TRY?

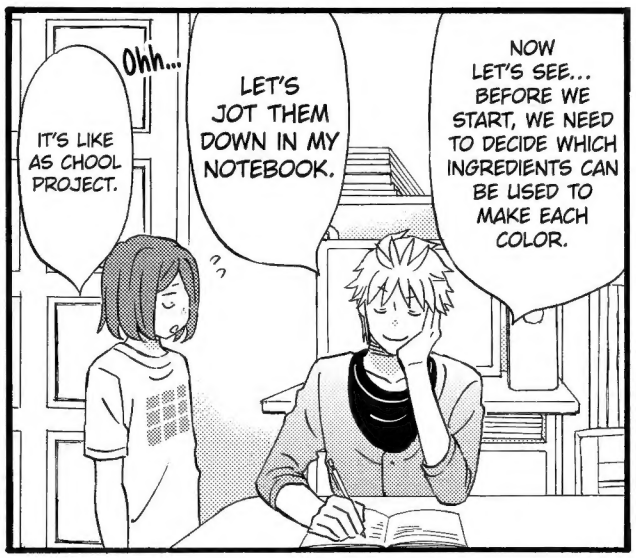

AS LONG AS IT'S COLORFUL ENOUGH, IT SHOULD BE FINE...

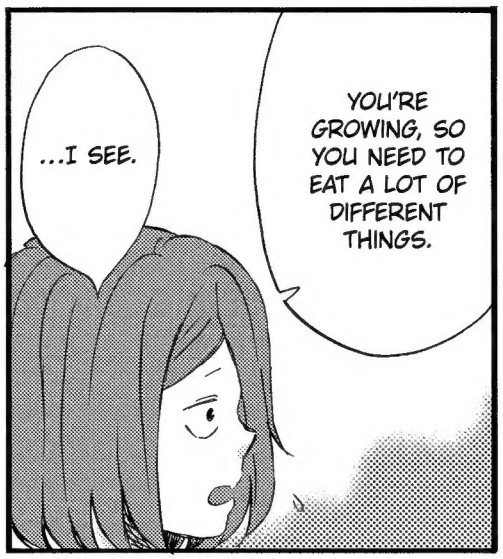

THE LUNCH BOX WILL LOOK COLORFUL ENOUGH AS LONG AS THERE'S ALSO YELLOW, GREEN, AND RED IN IT.
AT FIRST GLANCE, ASIDE FROM THE WHITE RICE AND THE MAIN SIDE DISH...
...

OH, GOTCHA.
I'M... NOT PICKY ABOUT FOOD, SO ANYTHING IS FINE.

IT'LL NATURALLY INCREASE THE OVERALL NUTRITIONAL VALUE.

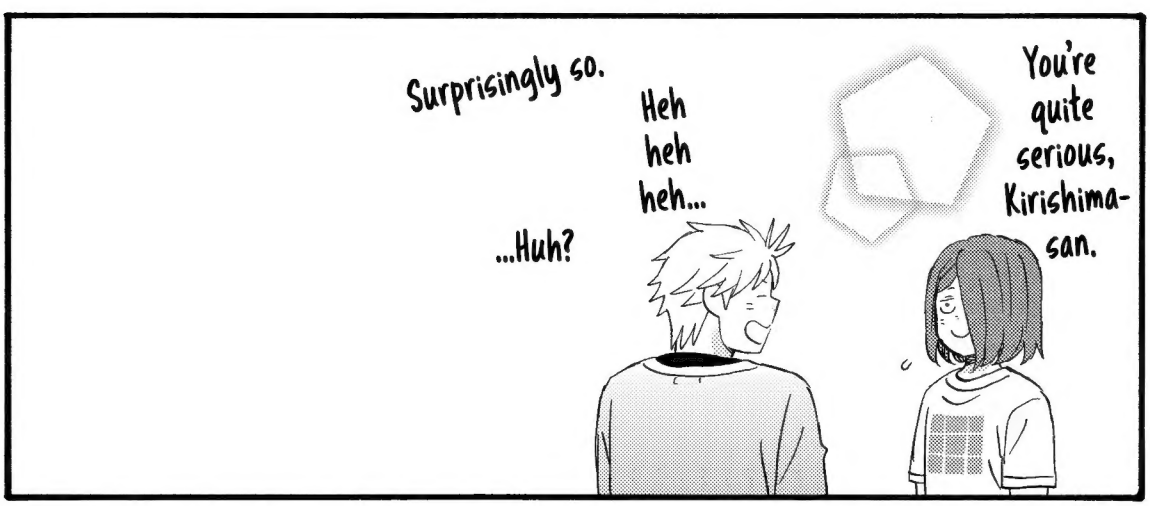

NO, NO... MORE COLORS MEANS USING A WIDER RANGE OF INGREDIENTS.
As long as it tastes good, it's fine by me...
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY SO MUCH ABOUT THE COLORS.


Ohh...
IT'S LIKE AS CHOOL PROJECT.
LET'S JOT THEM DOWN IN MY NOTEBOOK.
NOW LET'S SEE... BEFORE WE START, WE NEED TO DECIDE WHICH INGREDIENTS CAN BE USED TO MAKE EACH COLOR.

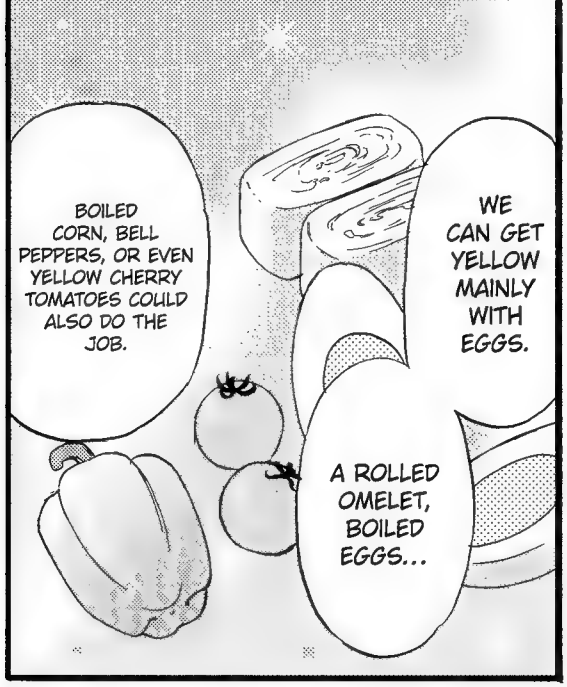

...I SEE.
YOU'RE GROWING, SO YOU NEED TO EAT A LOT OF DIFFERENT THINGS.

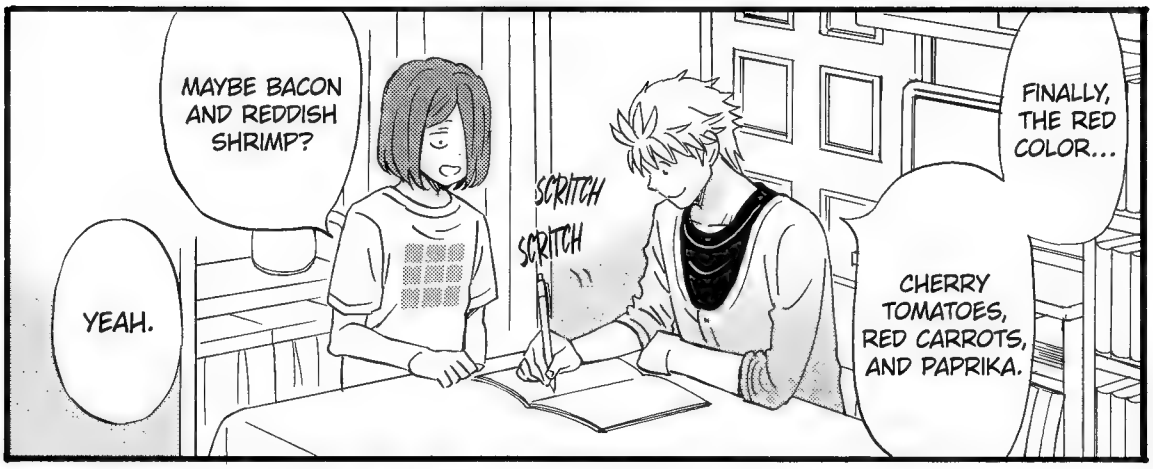
...
I'M NOT ONE OF THEM. SO I ALWAYS HAVE TO THINK THINGS THROUGH BEFORE I START...
I JUST CAN'T DO IT QUICKLY.

I'M SURE THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO CAN GET THINGS DONE QUICKLY WITHOUT PLANNING FIRST, BUT...


Surprisingly so.
Heh heh heh...
...Huh?
You're quite serious, Kirishima-san.

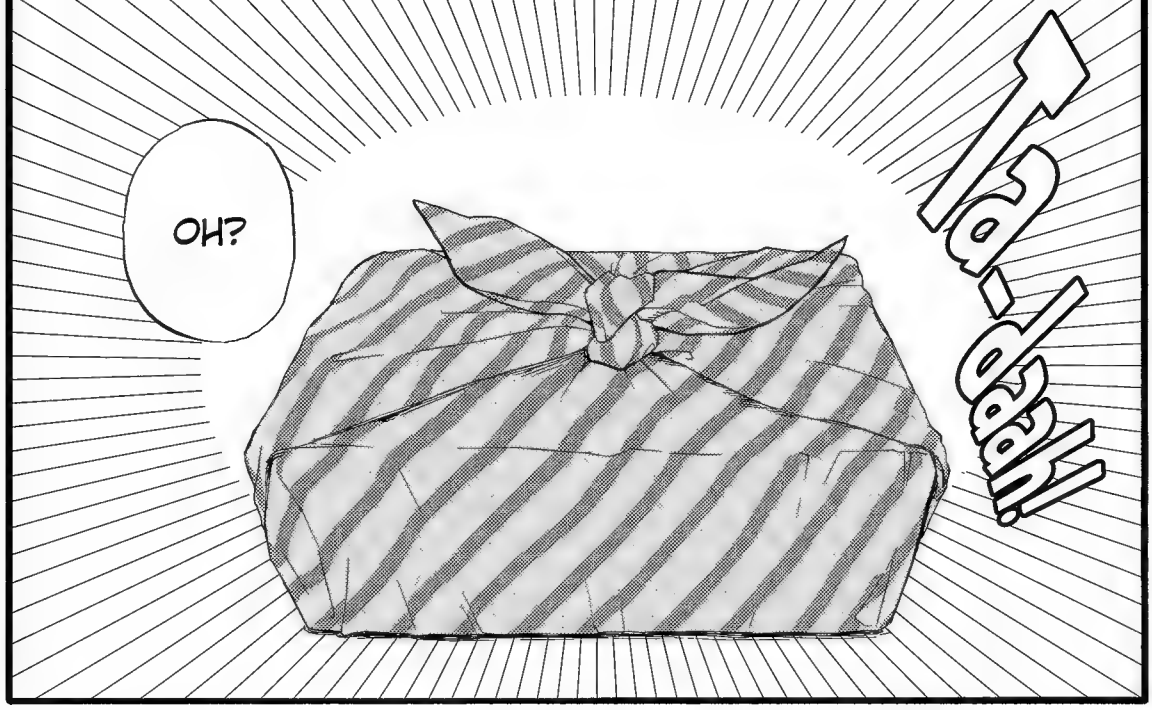
YEAH. ALSO, SUGAR SNAP PEAS AND ASPARAGUS.
AS FOR GREEN...
BROCCOLI, MAYBE?
CUCUMBER, EDAMAME, LETTUCE, AND OTHER GREEN STUFF...

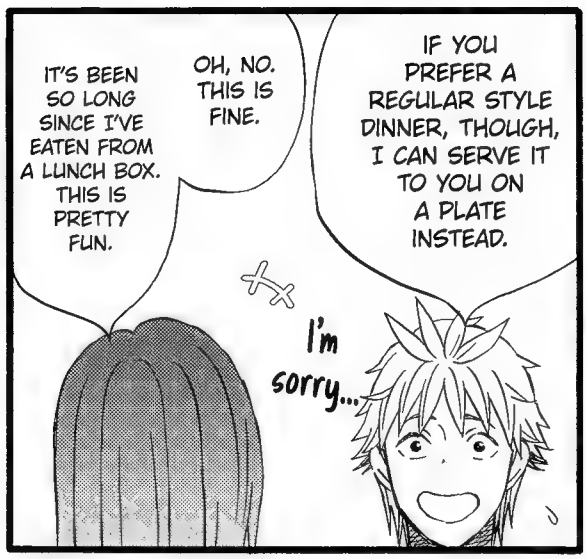

BOILED CORN, BELL PEPPERS, OR EVEN YELLOW CHERRY TOMATOES COULD ALSO DO THE JOB.
WE CAN GET YELLOW MAINLY WITH EGGS.
A ROLLED OMELET, BOILED EGGS...


MAYBE BACON AND REDDISH SHRIMP?
YEAH.
SCRITCH SCRITCH
FINALLY, THE RED COLOR...
CHERRY TOMATOES, RED CARROTS, AND PAPRIKA.

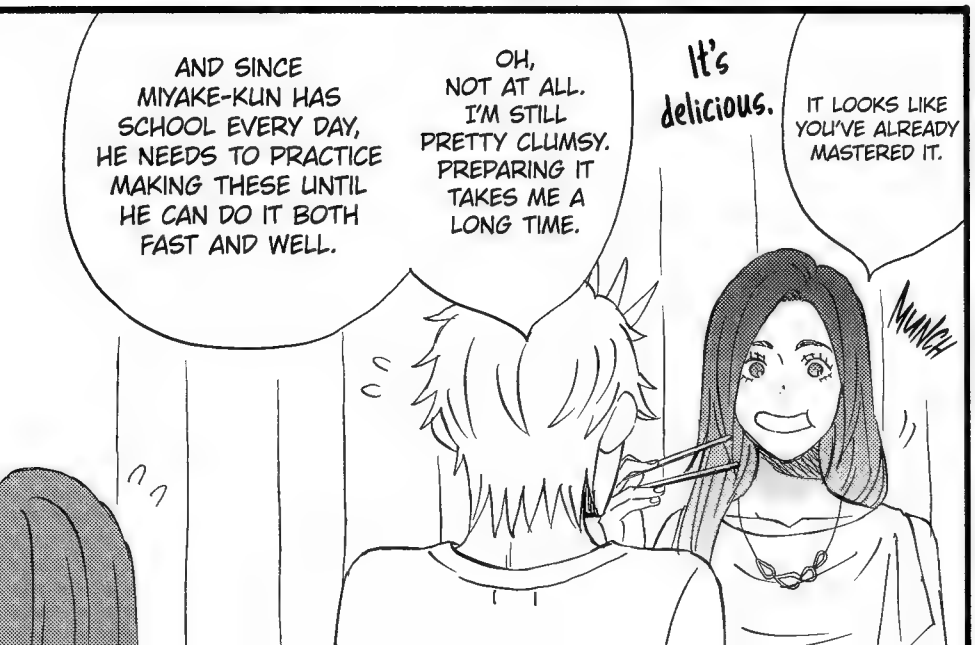
Blam
Ker-chak
I'M HOOOME...!

As for the main side dish, we should go with meat or fish...
Oh! And also...

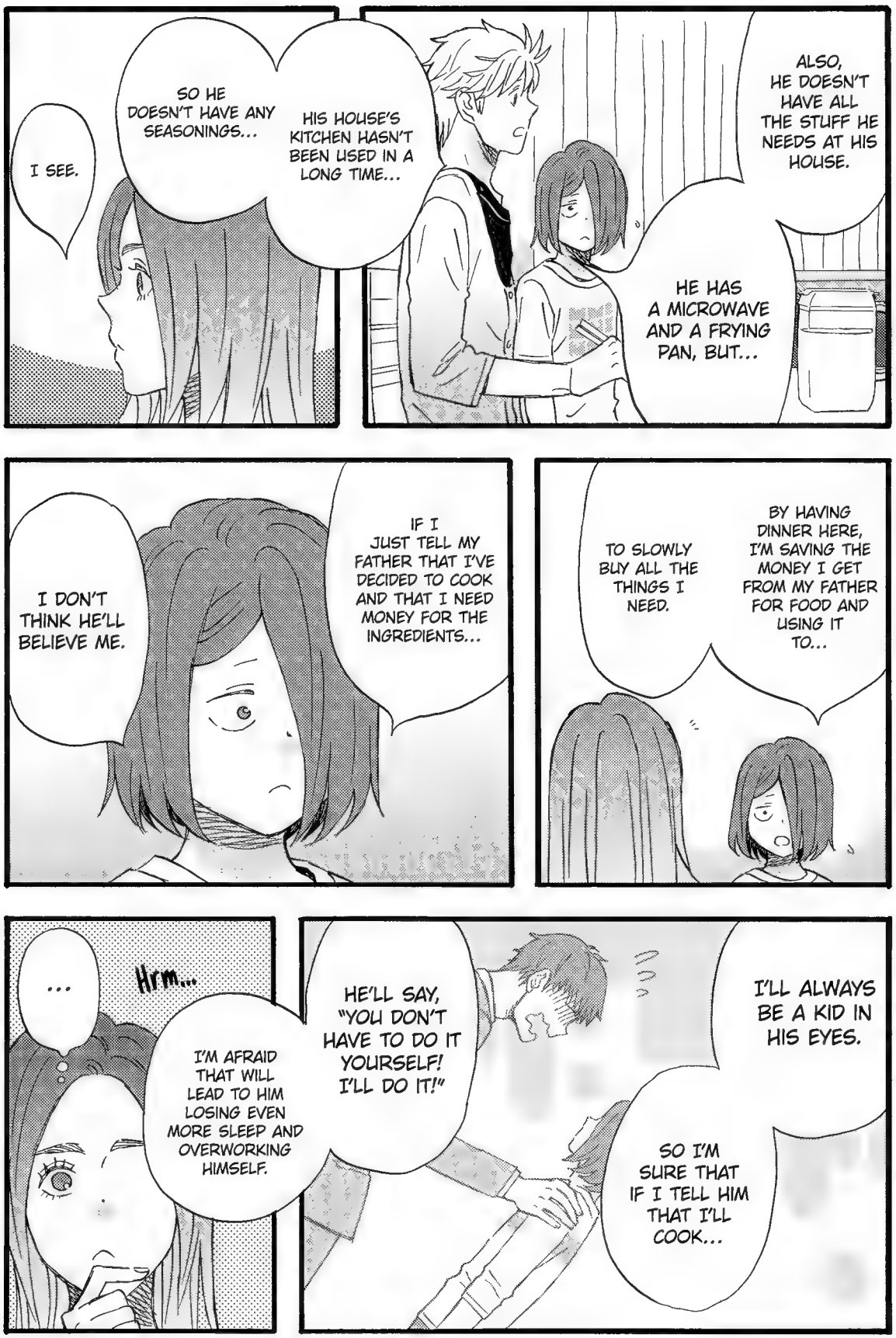

Tada-dah!
OH?

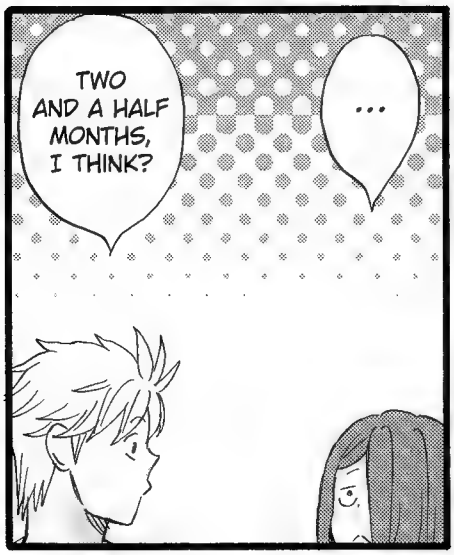

IF YOU PREFER A REGULAR STYLE DINNER, THOUGH, I CAN SERVE IT TO YOU ON A PLATE INSTEAD.
OH, NO. THIS IS FINE.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE EATEN FROM A LUNCH BOX. THIS IS PRETTY FUN.
I'm sorry...

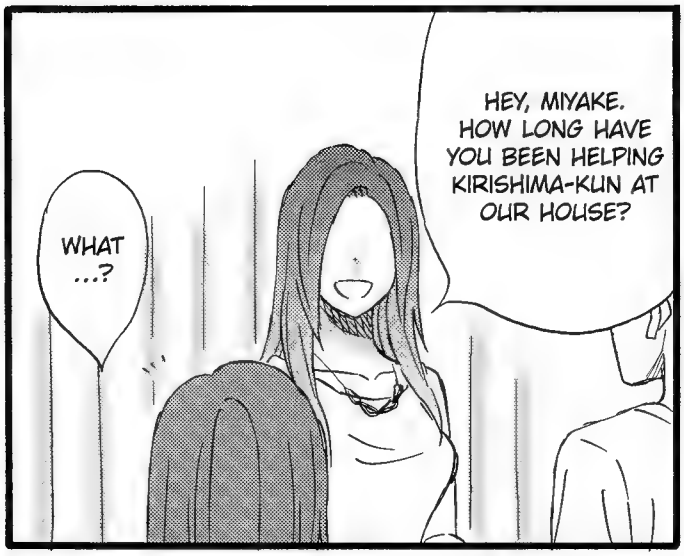
IS THIS TONIGHT'S DINNER?
It's a lunch box!
YES. MIYAKE-KUN AND I HAD NEVER MADE THEM BEFORE, SO...
WE HAD TO PRACTICE A LOT TO GET IT RIGHT.

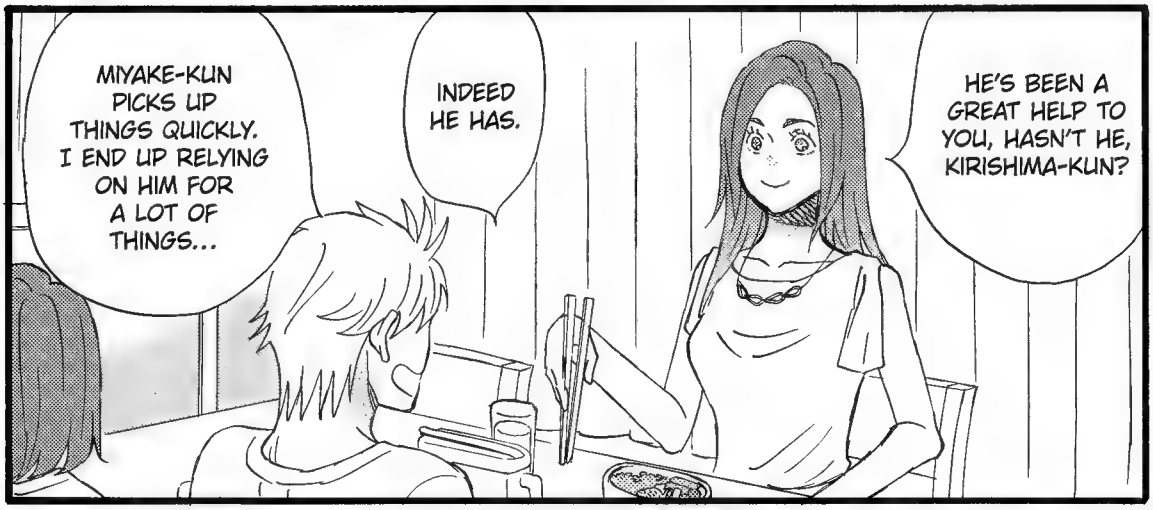

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE ALREADY MASTERED IT.
It's delicious.
MUNCH
OH, NOT AT ALL. I'M STILL PRETTY CLUMSY. PREPARING IT TAKES ME A LONG TIME.
AND SINCE MIYAKE-KUN HAS SCHOOL EVERY DAY, HE NEEDS TO PRACTICE MAKING THESE UNTIL HE CAN DO IT BOTH FAST AND WELL.

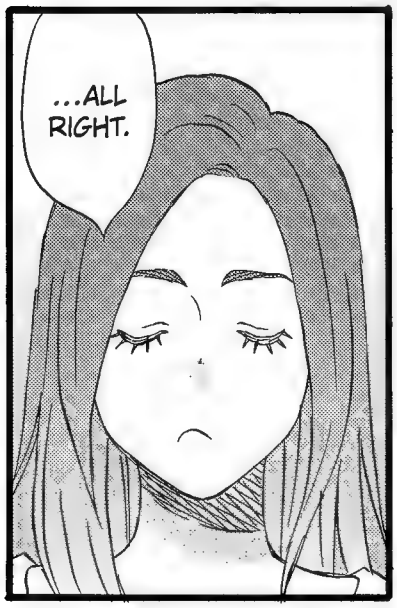
OHH! IT'S THE REAL DEAL!

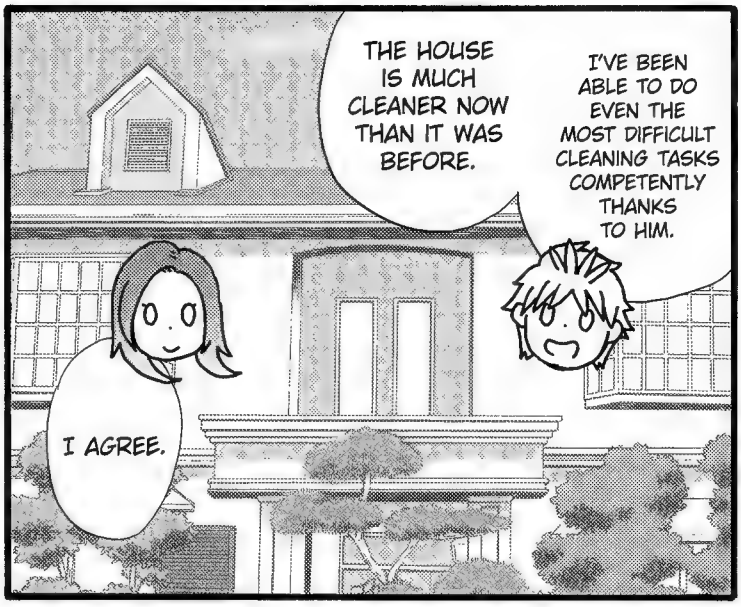

I SEE.
SO HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY SEASONINGS...
HIS HOUSE'S KITCHEN HASN'T BEEN USED IN A LONG TIME...
ALSO, HE DOESN'T HAVE ALL THE STUFF HE NEEDS AT HIS HOUSE.
HE HAS A MICROWAVE AND A FRYING PAN, BUT...
I DON'T THINK HE'LL BELIEVE ME.
IF I JUST TELL MY FATHER THAT I'VE DECIDED TO COOK AND THAT I NEED MONEY FOR THE INGREDIENTS...
TO SLOWLY BUY ALL THE THINGS I NEED.
BY HAVING DINNER HERE, I'M SAVING THE MONEY I GET FROM MY FATHER FOR FOOD AND USING IT TO...
...
Hrm...
I'M AFRAID THAT WILL LEAD TO HIM LOSING EVEN MORE SLEEP AND OVERWORKING HIMSELF.
HE'LL SAY, "YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO IT YOURSELF! I'LL DO IT!"
I'LL ALWAYS BE A KID IN HIS EYES.
SO I'M SURE THAT IF I TELL HIM THAT I'LL COOK...

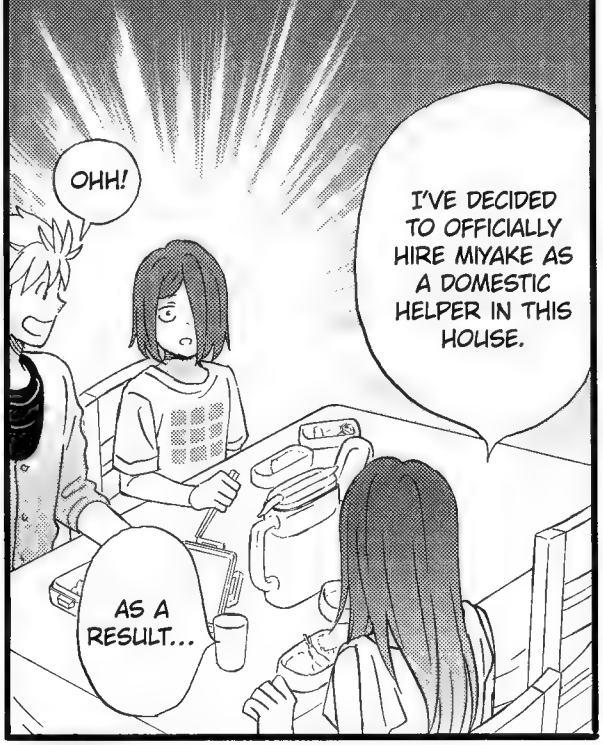

TWO AND A HALF MONTHS, I THINK?
...


HEY, MIYAKE. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN HELPING KIRISHIMA-KUN AT OUR HOUSE?
WHAT ...?

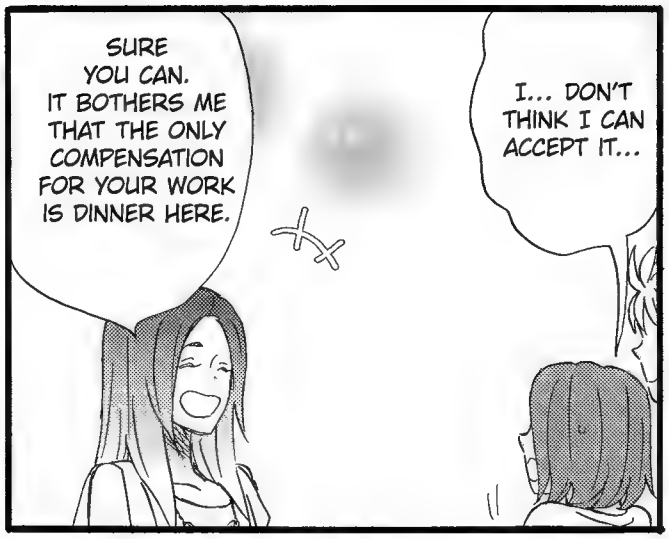

MIYAKE-KUN PICKS UP THINGS QUICKLY. I END UP RELYING ON HIM FOR A LOT OF THINGS...
INDEED HE HAS.
HE'S BEEN A GREAT HELP TO YOU, HASN'T HE, KIRISHIMA-KUN?


...ALL RIGHT.


THE HOUSE IS MUCH CLEANER NOW THAN IT WAS BEFORE.
I'VE BEEN ABLE TO DO EVEN THE MOST DIFFICULT CLEANING TASKS COMPETENTLY THANKS TO HIM.
I AGREE.

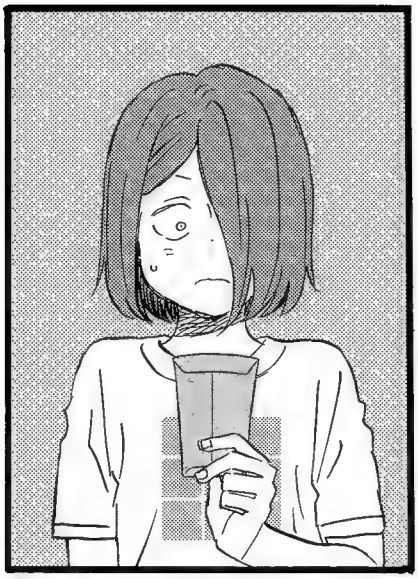

OHH!
I'VE DECIDED TO OFFICIALLY HIRE MIYAKE AS A DOMESTIC HELPER IN THIS HOUSE.
AS A RESULT...

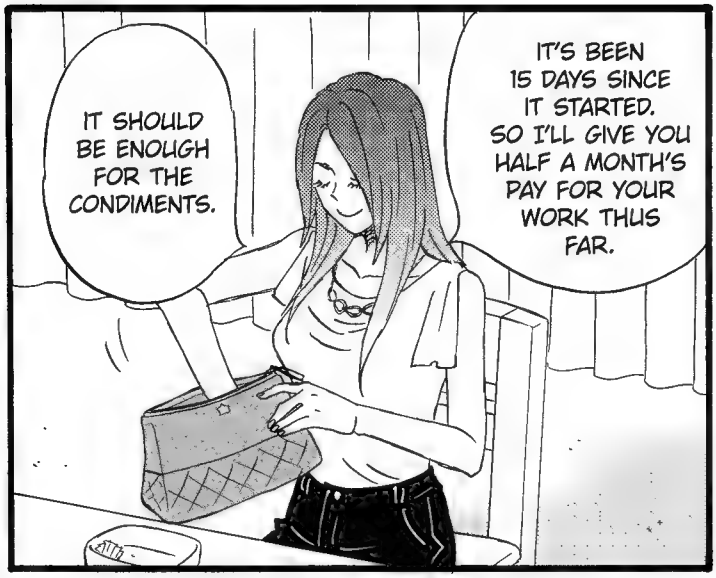
TO THE NEXT LEVEL?
IT'S ABOUT TIME WE TAKE THE "FAMILY CLUB" ACTIVITIES TO THE NEXT LEVEL.


SURE YOU CAN. IT BOTHERS ME THAT THE ONLY COMPENSATION FOR YOUR WORK IS DINNER HERE.
I... DON'T THINK I CAN ACCEPT IT...

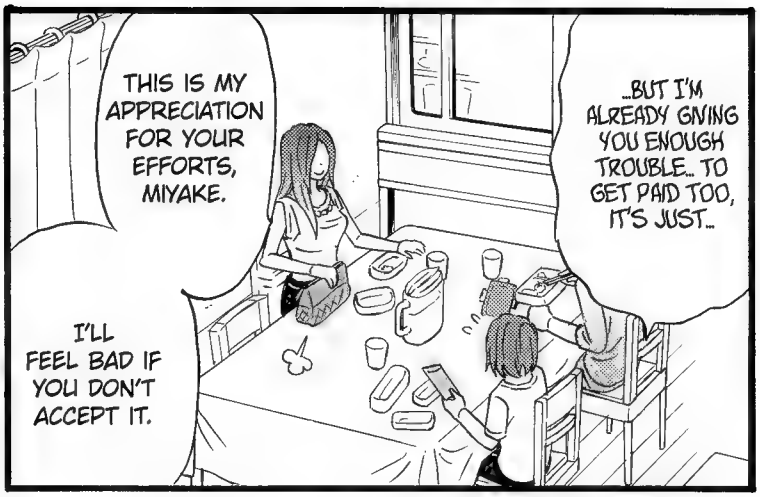
WHAT ...?
IT WON'T BE MUCH, BUT I'LL PAY YOU FOR THIS PART-TIME JOB.

THIS MONTH IS YOUR TRAINING PERIOD, AND...
IT'S NOT MUCH, BUT IT'LL ADD UP QUICKLY IF YOU SAVE IT.
I'LL GIVE YOU 300 YEN FOR EVERY DAY YOU HELP US.

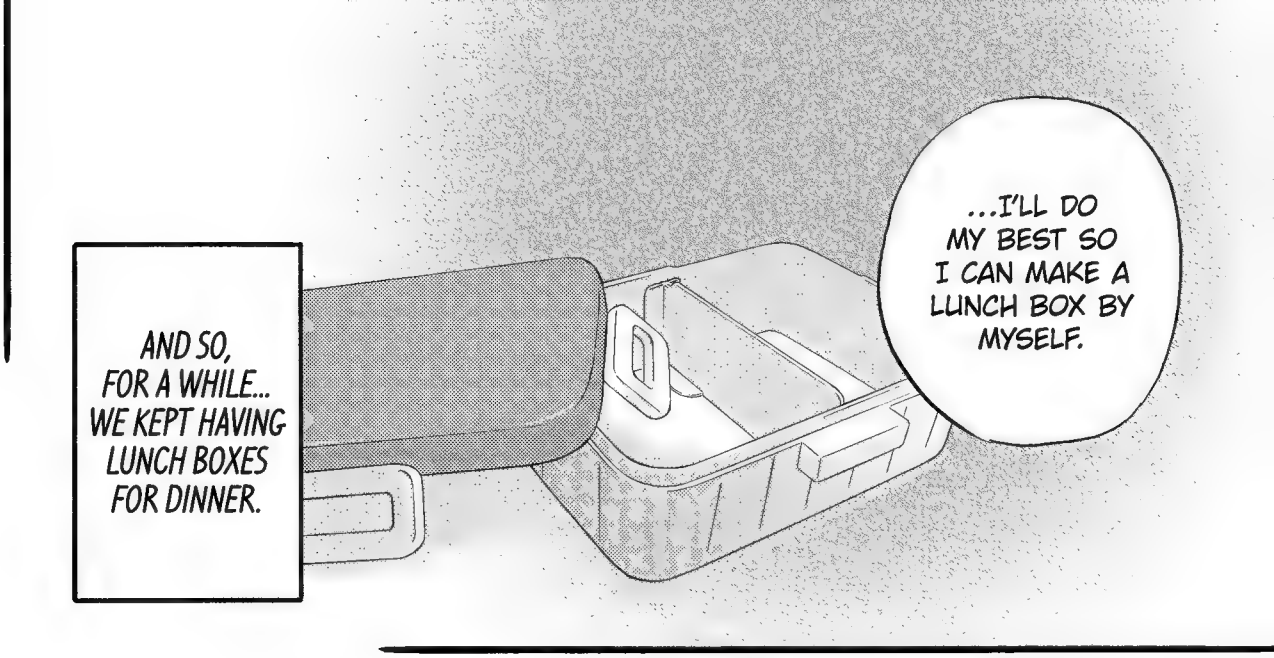


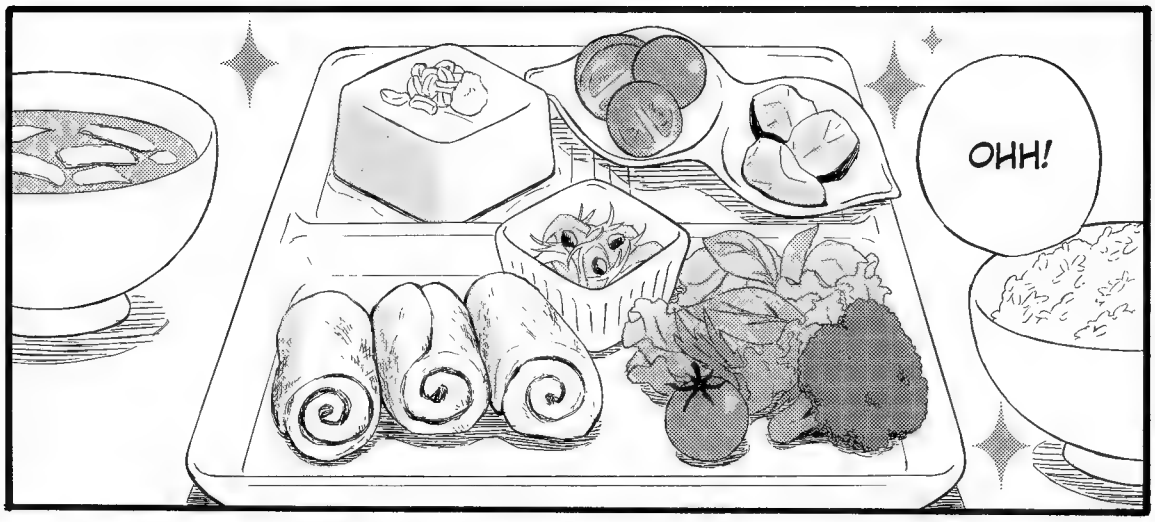

IT'S BEEN 15 DAYS SINCE IT STARTED. SO I'LL GIVE YOU HALF A MONTH'S PAY FOR YOUR WORK THUS FAR.
IT SHOULD BE ENOUGH FOR THE CONDIMENTS.

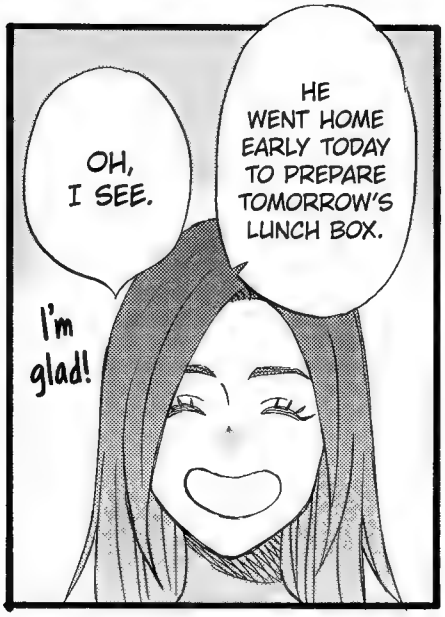
IT'S PROOF OF YOUR HARD WORK.

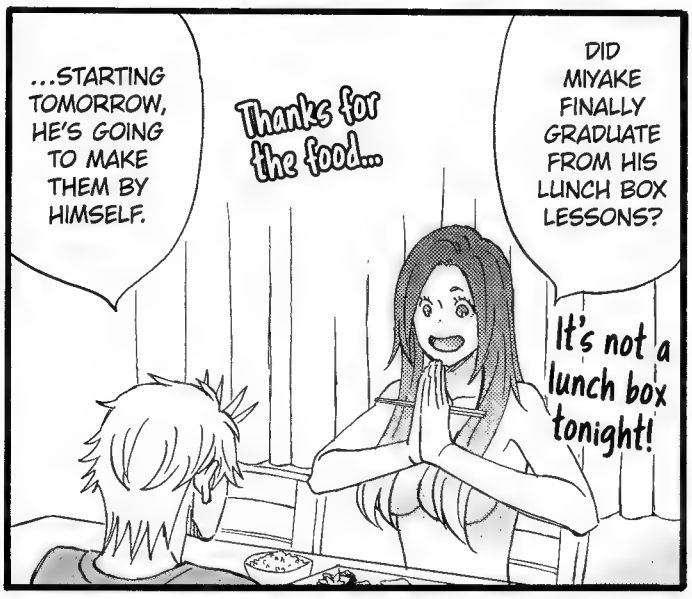

...BUT I'M ALREADY GIVING YOU ENOUGH TROUBLE... TO GET PAID TOO, IT'S JUST...
THIS IS MY APPRECIATION FOR YOUR EFFORTS, MIYAKE.
I'LL FEEL BAD IF YOU DON'T ACCEPT IT.

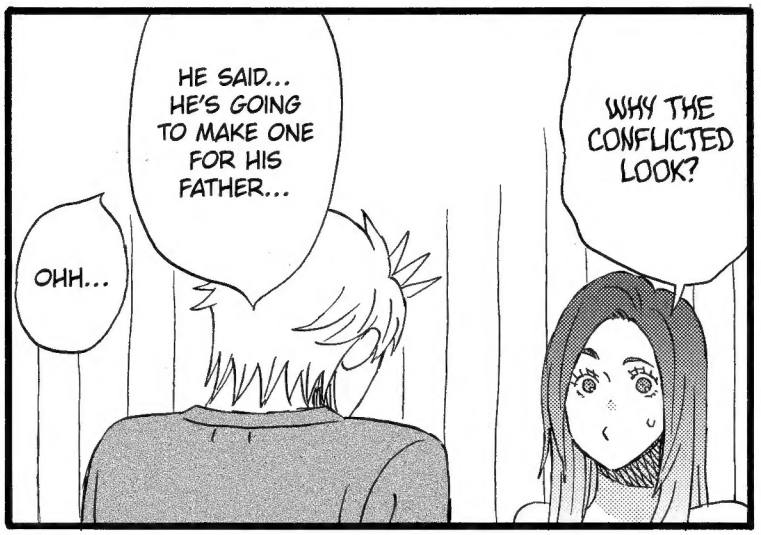
THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS HELPING US AROUND THE HOUSE.


AND SO, FOR A WHILE... WE KEPT HAVING LUNCH BOXES FOR DINNER.
...I'LL DO MY BEST SO I CAN MAKE A LUNCH BOX BY MYSELF.

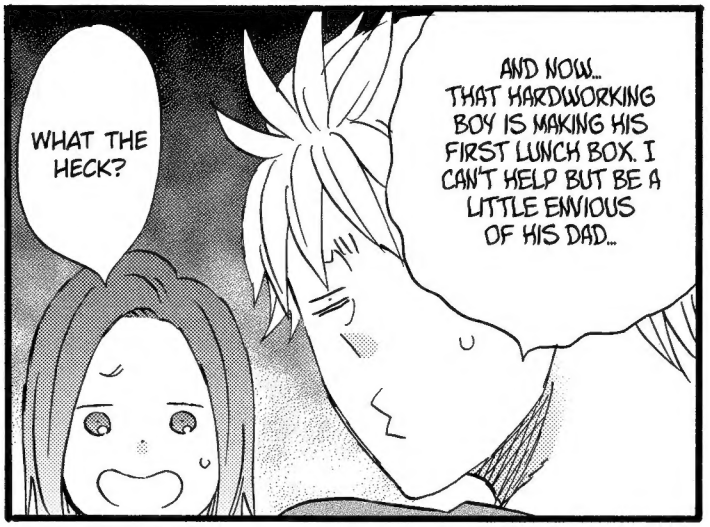

OHH!


HE WENT HOME EARLY TODAY TO PREPARE TOMORROW'S LUNCH BOX.
OH, I SEE.
I'm glad!


...STARTING TOMORROW, HE'S GOING TO MAKE THEM BY HIMSELF.
Thanks for the food...
DID MIYAKE FINALLY GRADUATE FROM HIS LUNCH BOX LESSONS?
It's not a lunch box tonight!


WHY THE CONFLICTED LOOK?
HE SAID... HE'S GOING TO MAKE ONE FOR HIS FATHER...
OHH...

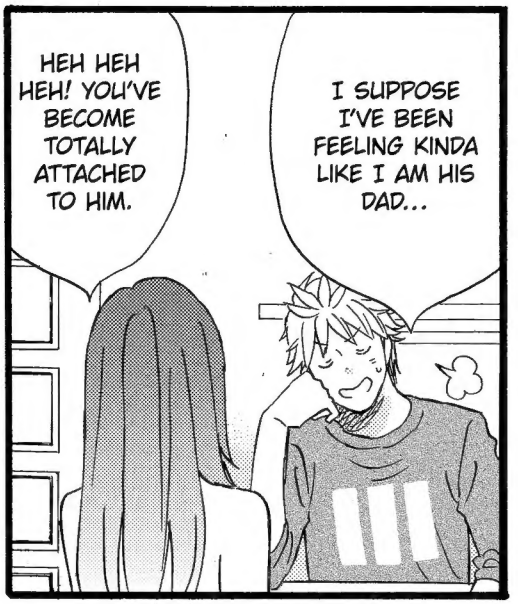
...
GLOOM...

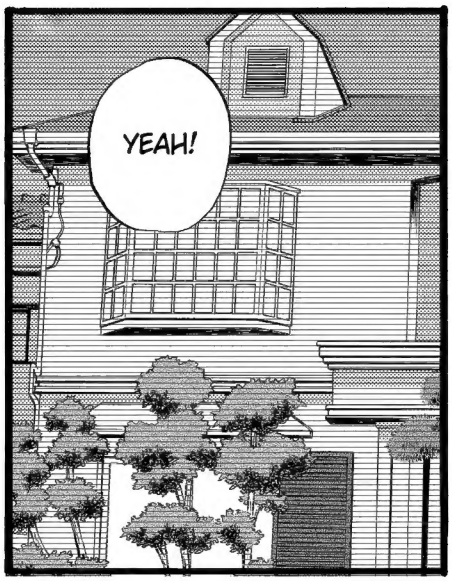

AND NOW... THAT HARDWORKING BOY IS MAKING HIS FIRST LUNCH BOX. I CAN'T HELP BUT BE A LITTLE ENVIOUS OF HIS DAD...
WHAT THE HECK?

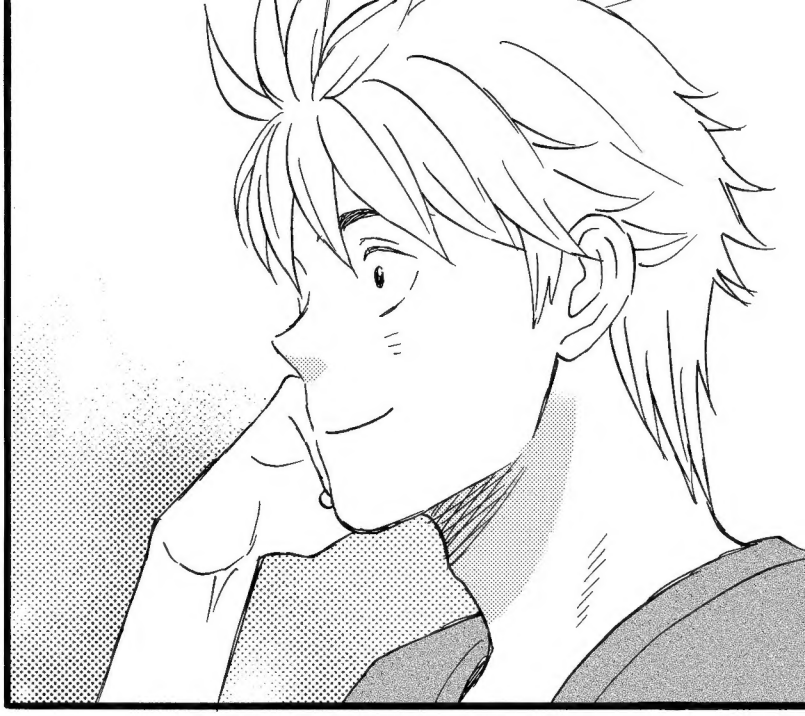
WHAT A GOOD SON.
INDEED.
MIYAKE-KUN IS A GOOD SON, AND A VERY GOOD KID...

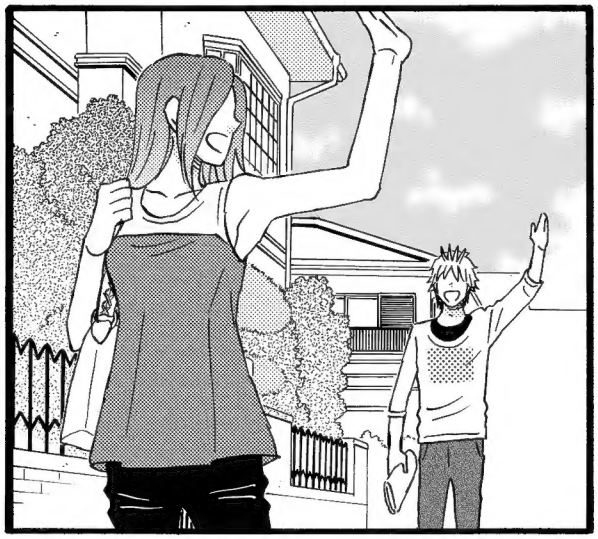
MIYAKE IS A GOOD GUY.

BUT WELL... I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.

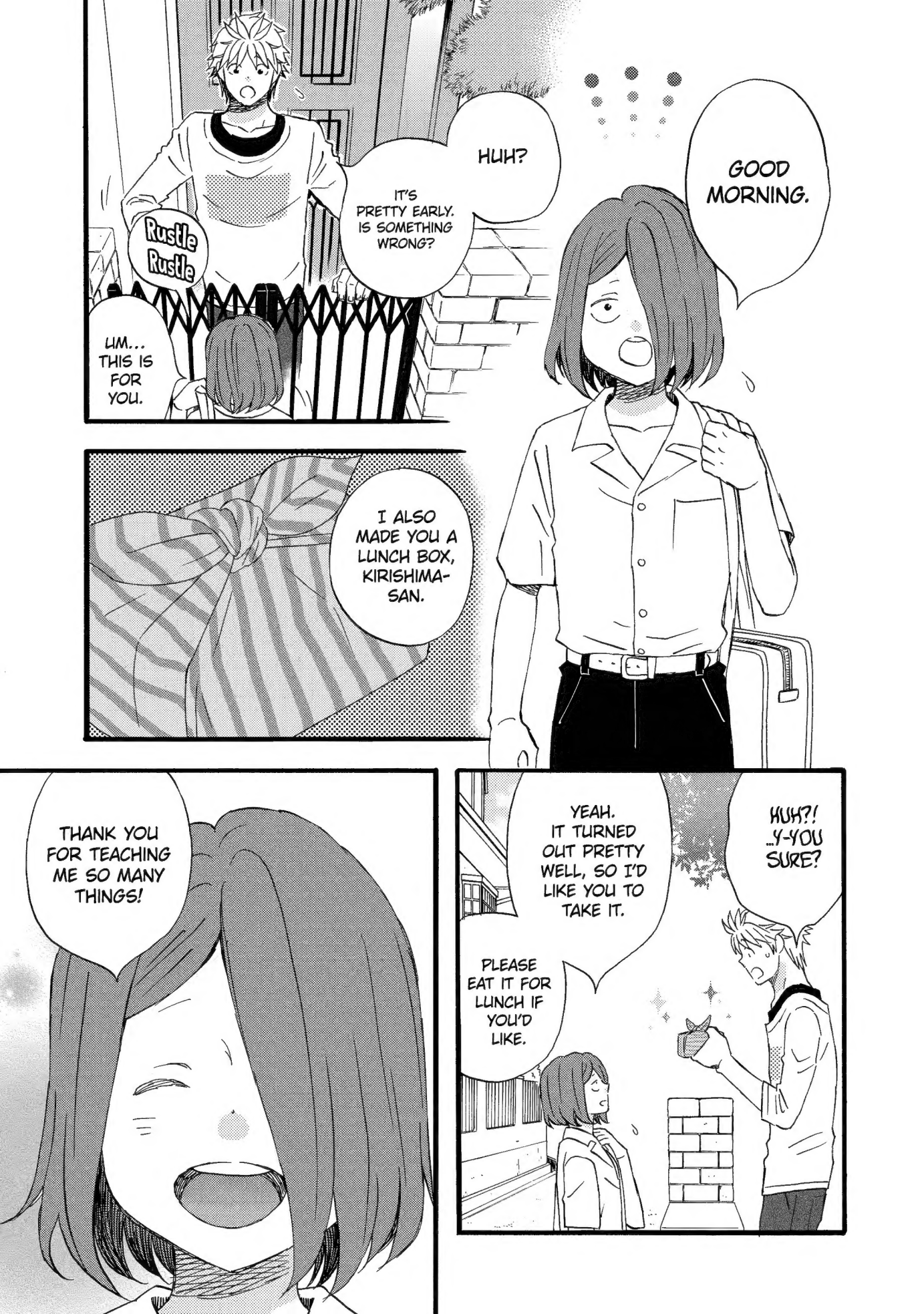

I SUPPOSE I'VE BEEN FEELING KINDA LIKE I AM HIS DAD...
HEH HEH HEH! YOU'VE BECOME TOTALLY ATTACHED TO HIM.

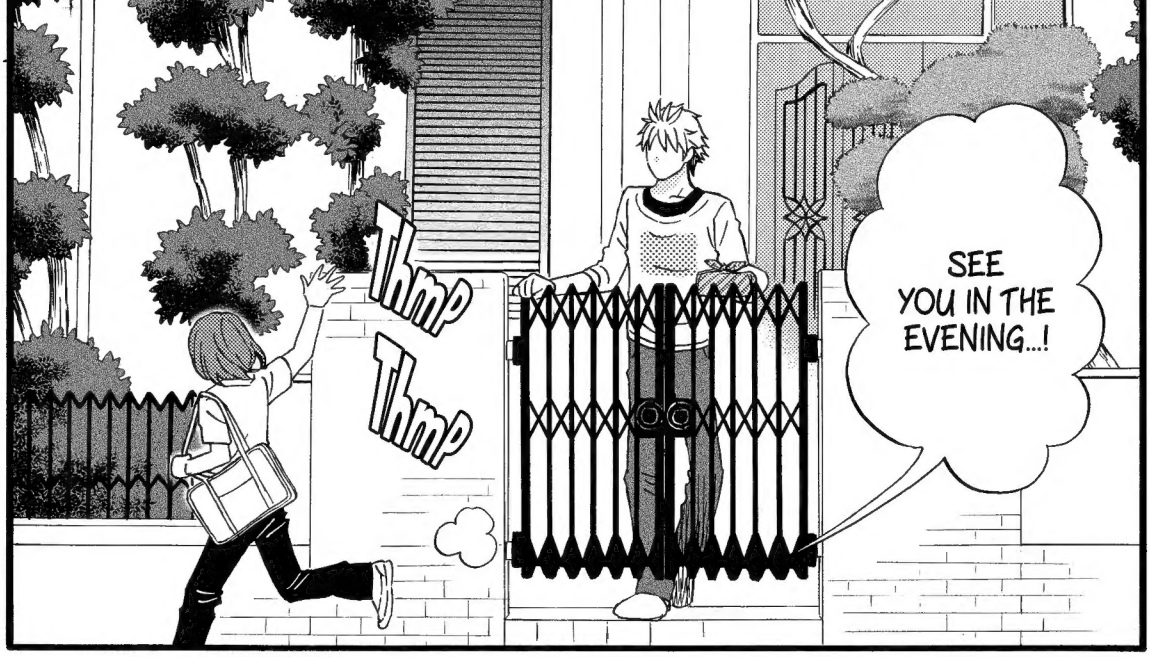

YEAH!



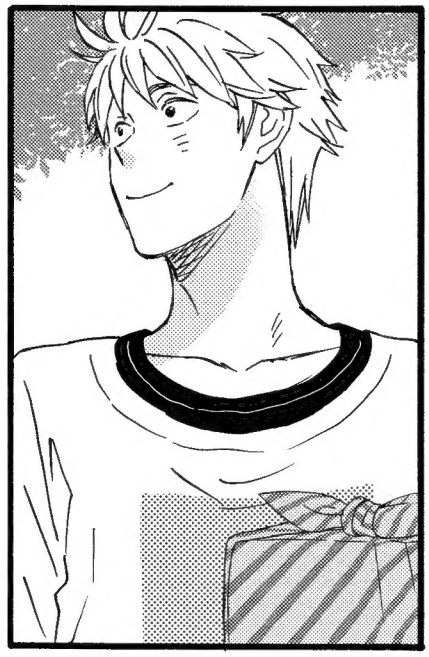


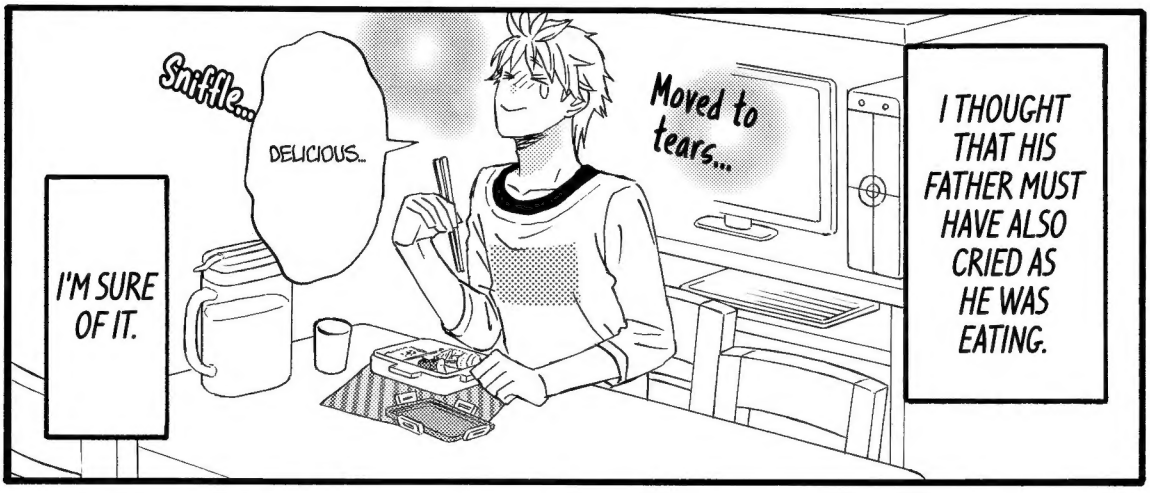
Ding
dooong
HM...?


GOOD MORNING.
HUH?
IT'S PRETTY EARLY. IS SOMETHING WRONG?
Rustle Rustle
UM... THIS IS FOR YOU.
I ALSO MADE YOU A LUNCH BOX, KIRISHIMA-SAN.
HUH?! ...Y-YOU SURE?
YEAH. IT TURNED OUT PRETTY WELL, SO I'D LIKE YOU TO TAKE IT.
PLEASE EAT IT FOR LUNCH IF YOU'D LIKE.
THANK YOU FOR TEACHING ME SO MANY THINGS!


Thmp
Thmp
SEE YOU IN THE EVENING...!

I'VE ONLY KNOWN MIYAKE-KUN FOR A FEW MONTHS, BUT THIS LUNCH BOX MAKES ME SO HAPPY.




Sniffle...
DELICIOUS...
Moved to tears...
I'M SURE OF IT.
I THOUGHT THAT HIS FATHER MUST HAVE ALSO CRIED AS HE WAS EATING.